

Setting Direction.

Vision & Mission studies **ARPC Mission Serve**

Key verse: John 12b, 17.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?”... Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.



Big Idea: It is only after we have understood and allowed Jesus to serve us at the cross that we are able to properly serve one another.

Kick Off

Do you like to serve or be served?

What makes serving a joy for you? What makes it drudgery?

Are there people you can think of who have ‘washed your feet’?

STUDY

Read John 13:1-17.

*The third aspect of our Mission statement as a church is, **We want to Serve like Christ.** That is a huge statement! This passage outlines what Christ like service is. The setting is the Passover meal in the rented upper room with the 12 disciples.*

1. Jesus is well aware his time has come. v1. What do you think this time is about? cf John 2:4, 7:6-8, 12:23, 13:31. Will it be a time of shame or honour?
2. All the way leading up to Jerusalem and this event Jesus has been saying he is going to the cross. But what seems to be the big concern of Jesus’ disciples? Cf. Matt18:1, 20:20-25.
3. John is really highlighting how important Jesus is. How would you write v4 for your students if you were an incredibly powerful and significant world leader?
 - What does Jesus do for his students?
4. Peter finally breaks the stunned and embarrassed silence of the disciples. Would you have been as bothered by Jesus’ actions as Peter seems to be if you were one of the disciples?

5. From v1 we are told Jesus is going to show his disciples the full extent of his love. From v8 we learn Peter will only properly understand what Jesus is doing at a latter date. From these two things we can conclude the foot washing *illustration* will require the cross for *explanation*.

So:-

- Without the cross do you think we can be clean of our sin?
- Without Jesus cleaning us do you think we can we have anything to do with him v8?

6. What is the obligation and expectation Jesus places on us who have been 'washed' by him at the cross, vv12-17?

- Consider Jesus' example of washing Judas' feet. How difficult is this for us to imitate!

THINK AND APPLY

To serve like Christ is us willingly giving all we have to offer in loving acts of service to one another, regardless of whether they deserve it or not. This is a huge ask and obviously we all have a great deal of growth to go in this area. But the starting point is us understanding the cross and how Jesus serves us there once and for all time.

How can we encourage each other on in Christ like service?

Who can you love in a concrete way by serving them this week in some way?

Are there people you can thank this week for the way they have 'washed your feet'?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
1 Cor. 9:19-23**